Functioning of judicial system

2082. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item entitled, "Some rotten eggs in Judiciary: Soli" appearing in the Pioneer dated 19th December, 1999;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to tone-up the functioning of the judicial system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate Judicial Service vests with the concerned High Court. Further, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to article 309 read with articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the State Government frames rules and regulations in consultation with the High Court. The members of the State Judicial service are governed by these rules and regulations.

The newsitem refers to the case of a Mumbai court judge accused of having links with mafia don. According to information received from the Registry, High Court (Appellate Side), Bombay, a case has been registered U/s 387 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code r/w Section 3(1)(ii) and (2) of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crimes Act against one Additional Sessions Judge and he has been placed under suspension w.e.f. 29.4.1999.

The Government also proposes to set up a National Judicial Commission which will, *inter alia,* draw up a code of ethics for the judiciary.

Disposal of election related cases

2083. SHRI RAMCHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of election cases filed in different High Courts of the country during the last three years and the number of those out of the above which have already been disposed off; and

(b) whether there is any time limit for disposing the election cases?